



## 2012 Youth Serve Montana Scholarship

Presented by the Governor's Office of Community Service  
in partnership with Montana Campus Compact

### Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: What is the purpose of the scholarship?**

A: The Youth Serve Montana Scholarship was created to promote volunteerism among high school students, to encourage youth volunteers to further their learning and provide tuition assistance for Montana students who wish to attend college in-state.

**Q: How many scholarships are available?**

A: Up to 70 with priority given to awarding one per high school.

**Q: How should I submit my materials?**

A: Materials may be mailed, faxed or scanned and emailed to the Governor's Office of Community Service. They must be postmarked or received by noon on April 16, 2012. Applications will not be accepted after this date.

**Q: Will I receive notification if my application is incomplete?**

A: No. The Governor's Office of Community Service receives many applications and incomplete applications will not be considered. Please call to confirm that your materials were received.

**Q: May home-schooled students apply?**

A: Yes. The Governor's Office of Community Service reserves 5 scholarships for home-schooled students with senior status.

**Q: May students from other states apply?**

A: No.

**Q: May international students apply?**

A: No.

**Q: Students in the past submitted their applications through the school guidance counselor's office. Do I need to do the same for my 2012 application?**

A: No. In order to streamline the application process, students submit their applications directly to the Governor's Office of Community Service. The application must be validated by your high school Guidance Counselor, Principal, or Superintendent.

**Q: How is my application validated?**

A: Your application must be reviewed by your high school Guidance Counselor, Principal or Superintendent. Applications submitted by home-schooled students must be validated by the County Superintendent. After review, the validating official must sign the application and provide their contact information.

**Q: What are the acceptable forms of proof of enrollment at a Montana Campus Compact member institution?**

A: Letters of acceptance or letters of enrollment are both forms of acceptable proof.

**Q: How will my application be evaluated?**

A: Applications will first be evaluated for meeting the minimum requirements. These include:

- A completed and legible Scholarship Application form,
- Proof of acceptance to one of Montana's Campus Compact member institutions,
- Current senior status at the time of application,
- The student will use the scholarship funds for the 2012-2013 college academic year.

Applications may also be evaluated by a selection committee based on secondary criteria. These include:

- Geographic diversity
- Depth and breadth of service activities
- Student's personal and long term commitment to service

**Q: What is Montana Campus Compact?**

A: The Montana Campus Compact is Montana's largest higher education network and it is committed to renewing the public purposes of higher education. MTCC campuses sponsor Campus Corps AmeriCorps teams and service-learners to address community needs, AmeriCorps \*VISTAs to facilitate anti-poverty work and engaged faculty and civic engagement professionals to support the work and incorporate service and learning.

**Q: Which colleges are member institutions of Montana Campus Compact?**

1. Aaniiih Nakoda College (Fort Belknap Community College)
2. Blackfeet Community College
3. Carroll College
4. Dawson Community College
5. Flathead Valley Community College
6. Fort Peck Community College
7. Little Bighorn College
8. Miles Community College
9. Montana State University – Billings
10. Montana State University – Bozeman
11. Montana State University – Northern (Havre)
12. Montana State University – Great Falls College of Technology
13. Montana Tech of UM

14. Rocky Mountain College
15. Salish Kootenai College
16. Stone Child College
17. The University of Montana – Missoula
18. The University of Montana – Western (Dillon)
19. The University of Montana – Helena College of Technology
20. University of Great Falls

Find out more online at <http://mtcompact.org/members.htm#memberinstitutions>

**Q: If the College that I plan to attend is not one of Montana Campus Compact's member institutions, am I still eligible for the Youth Serve Montana Scholarship?**

A: No. The scholarship is funded in part through a match from Montana Campus Compact.

**Q: How is the scholarship funded?**

A: The funds have been made available in partnership with Montana Campus Compact ([mtcompact.org](http://mtcompact.org)), a network of twenty Montana campuses committed to community service. The scholarships are administered by the Governor's Office of Community Service. For the past six years, the Montana Campus Compact Board of Directors has voted to partner with the Governor's Commission on Community Service to provide the recipients of the Montana Youth Serve Scholarship with \$500 institutional matches, making the overall scholarship \$1,000.

**Q: Can I apply by email or online?**

A: You may submit your application via email, but there is no online portal for submitting it. If you are submitting it by email, scan and attach all accompanying documents with signatures.

**Q: Is my high school grade point average included in the selection criteria?**

A: No.

**Q: What are examples of service activities?**

A: Although service is not limited to the following, some examples of volunteer activities include: peer mentoring, emergency preparedness activities, volunteering in hospitals and nursing homes, land restoration and trail maintenance work, and volunteering at community gardens. See the attached examples sheet for more ideas.

**Q: What activities are prohibited in the scholarship program?**

A: Activities that include efforts to influence policy and legislation, participating in, or endorsing, events or activities that are likely to include advocacy for or against political parties, platforms candidates or elected officials, engaging in religious instruction, conducting worship services, providing instruction as part of a program that conducts worship services, constructing, operating or maintaining facilities devoted to religious instruction or worship, or engaging in any form of religious proselytization.

**Q: How will the geographic diversity criterion be applied?**

A: In order to offer the scholarship broadly across Montana, the selection committee will give priority to one student from each high school to receive the scholarship.

**Q: Are students required to maintain a grade point average once they enroll?**

A: The Governor's Office of Community Service does not require a minimum grade point average after enrollment, but check with your college's financial aid officer to find out about specific requirements that your campus might have.

**Q: Who does the student contact to verify the scholarship has been applied to his/her tuition?**

A: After enrollment in the fall, recipients should follow up with their institution's financial aid officer to find out whether the matching funds have been applied to their tuition. It is your responsibility to notify the campus that you are receiving a Youth Serve Montana Scholarship.

**Q: How is the scholarship applied to tuition? Is it split between semesters?**

A: The scholarship is applied directly to the student's tuition, and is split between semesters, with \$500 applied to each semester's tuition. Check with your financial aid officer for more information or assistance.

**Q: What happens if I transfer schools after receiving the scholarship?**

A: If you decide to attend a different Montana Campus Compact school than what was listed in your application, please notify the Governor's Office of Community Service prior to September 1, 2012. If you transfer schools after September 1, you should notify your financial aid officers at both schools to inform them of your transfer and to ensure that the matching funds are properly applied. You should also notify the Governor's Office of Community Service.

**Q. Who do I contact if I have questions about the Youth Serve Montana Scholarship?**

A: If you have questions about the scholarship application, please contact Julia Gustafson or Kim Leighton in the Governor's Office of Community Service at 406-444-1391. If you have questions about how the scholarship will be applied to your tuition, please contact your financial aid officer.

**Q. Is this scholarship related to the Governor's Best and Brightest Scholarship?**

A: No, the Governor's Best and Brightest Scholarship is a different scholarship administered by the Montana University System and the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education. If you have questions about the Governor's Best and Brightest Scholarship please call 1-800-537-7508 or email [mtscholarships@montana.edu](mailto:mtscholarships@montana.edu).

# Examples of Service Activities

Places and Organizations that offer volunteer opportunities:

- 4-H
- Adopt a Grandparent/Homebound Elderly Companion
- Adopt a Highway
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters
- Community Gardens and Community Forums
- Conservation Districts
- Family Career & Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)
- Future Farmers of America (FFA)
- Food banks and soup kitchens
- Habitat for Humanity
- Historical Societies
- Hospitals
- Humane Society
- Hunter's Education Classes
- Libraries
- Literacy Programs
- Nursing Homes
- Meals on Wheels
- Master Gardener and Master Naturalist Programs
- Museums, Art Galleries and Monuments
- Pow-Wow Events
- Preventative Drug, Alcohol, Violence, Abuse Programs
- Red Cross (Blood Drives, Emergency Preparedness Training, etc.)
- Scouting groups
- Ski Patrol
- United Way
- Volunteer Fire Department/Ambulance Service
- Youth Justice Council

Types of Service Activities:

- Afterschool mentoring
- Book Drives
- Coaching
- Coat collections
- ESL tutoring
- Food Drives
- Fundraising for non-profit organizations
- Global Youth Service Day activities
- Highway cleanups
- Home weatherization
- Invasive plant removal
- MLK day activities
- Peer mediation
- Serving food at soup kitchens
- Trail building and maintenance
- Tutoring
- Visits to senior homes